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BOOK REVIEWS

THE GREAT ADVENTURE AT WASHINGTON. By *Mark Sullivan*. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. Pp. i-xi, 1-290, index and illustrations.

Mr. Sullivan, one of the newspapermen who watch things in Washington, has done an excellent service in giving the public this book on the Washington Conference three months after the close of this fateful gathering, for his pictures of men and happenings, of the processes which were used to achieve results, and his conclusions should be read while the popular mind still is fresh and impressionable. And the popular mind should be the popular mind not alone of these United States, but of Europe and all the civilized world. It will do the balance of the world good to see, through Mr. Sullivan's eyes, what was done at Washington and how it was done. And if at times he sees overly enthusiastic, a tired and disillusioned world will make ample discount and yet be profited.

In the first few chapters Mr. Sullivan describes the incalculably important opening sessions of the conference, in which Mr. Hughes submitted the American proposals, and the way in which they were received by the several delegations and by the press of this country and the world. A necessary part of this description is incidental pen portraits of the men who spoke in Washington for the great nations, and these will have an interest of their own for the reader, for they are done in the meticulously faithful and truth-seeking manner that is Mr. Sullivan's habit and strength as a journalist. In natural sequence this description of the Hughes proposal and of the first few days of the conference leads to description of the initial differences between the French delegation and others over the question of land armaments, and therein will be found surprising and informative statements made from the secret records.

In the latter part of the fourth chapter, captioned "France Says 'No,'" Mr. Sullivan tells of the meeting of the Armament Committee after the open session in which Briand had stated the position of France to the world—a statement that evoked generous expressions from the leaders of the other nations' delegations. The official communique from that committee meeting was brief and colorless. Mr. Sullivan shows the meeting to have been one of almost brutal expressions from Balfour and of angry replies in kind from Briand, who had gone to the meeting in high spirits, thinking his work was well done, and who expected the gathering, so far as he was concerned, to be one of happy farewells. The world heard nothing of this affair at the time. If there were nothing else in the book, this illumination of one of the dark and secret happenings, which Mr. Sullivan has been able to give from the minutes of the meeting that were kept from the public at the time, would make the volume necessary to those who wish an understanding of the Washington Conference.

Other chapters Mr. Sullivan uses to elucidate the nature of the contest between Mr. Hughes and the Japanese over the naval ratio; the crisis which developed when the naval ratio had been settled between the United States, Great Britain, and Japan, and France came forward with a demand for a larger capital-ship tonnage than the other powers were willing to grant or had contemplated; and the issue between the British and French over the submarine. Mr. Sullivan also devotes chapters to clarification of the Four-Power Treaty and the differences between China and Japan that so grievously troubled the conference.

His final chapter, which is entitled "Unique in History," philosophizes on the unprecedented fact that mastery of the seas was settled in conference and not in battle, and notes: "In this act, Great Britain surrendered actual dominance of naval power and we surrendered potential dominance. Great Britain gave up the heritage she had held for more than 200 years, and we gave up the ambition to take it from her for ourselves."

THE MYTH OF A GUILTY NATION. By *Albert Jay Nock*. B. W. Huebsch, Inc., New York. Pp. 1-114. Price, fifty cents.

This is a compilation, in paper back, of a series of articles written by Mr. Nock under the pseudonym of "Historicus"

and published in the *Freeman*, of which he is associate editor. By frequent and keenly chosen excerpts from speeches and documents of dates prior to 1914, Mr. Nock seeks to demonstrate that Germany was not guilty of bringing on the war. Whether she was part guilty, and, if so, what the measure of her guilt was, he does not argue, holding that to be immaterial. At the same time he indicates plainly that he thinks Germany less guilty than some of the nations which opposed her.

Believing Germany not to be guilty of causing the war, Mr. Nock holds the Treaty of Versailles to be a monstrosity and indefensible. He argues that the treaty finds its foundation in the assumption of Germany's war guilt, and that assumption being a lie, the treaty has no stronger or more durable foundation than a lie. Hence, it must fail. Its economic error he believes to be unescapable, and he thinks the more Germany tries to pay the obligation put upon her, the worse it will be for the other nations. That, in Mr. Nock's opinion, already is a demonstrated fact.

MENNONITES IN THE WORLD WAR, or Non-resistance under Test. By *J. S. Hartzler*, assisted by a committee of the Mennonite General Conference. Mennonite Publishing House, Scottdale, Pa. Pp. 1-246. Index.

Herein is an outpouring of the heart of a non-resistant sect which suffered during the war. In the light of a short story of the Mennonite people, dating back to their arrival in this country, the nature of the heartburnings and the anxieties that came upon them with the entrance of the United States into the war, and the enactment of conscription, is told with sincerity, if with a certain too sentimental view of themselves. The doctrine of non-resistance had little hearing in the days between April, 1917, and November, 1918, and the conscientious objector had less. The government, we learn from the book, was considerate, but the mob was a thorn in the flesh. The pressure of the times must make the logical-minded reader patient with the explanations, given with a sort of pride, that the Mennonites, while refusing to draw the sword, gave freely of their wealth.

AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN CHINA. By *Paul S. Reinsch*. Doubleday, Page & Company, Garden City, N. Y., and Toronto, 1922. Pp. I-XII, 1-387. Index. \$4.00.

The author of this book was appointed Minister to Peking by President Wilson in 1913. He served in that office for nearly six years, after which he became the financial adviser of the recognized Chinese Government. Dr. Reinsch has written upon "The Common Law in the Early American Colonies," "World Politics at the End of the Nineteenth Century as Influenced by the Oriental Situation," "Colonial Government," "Colonial Administration," "American Legislatures and Legislative Methods," "Intellectual Currents in the Far East," "International Unions," "Essentials of Government" (published in Chinese), and "Secret Diplomacy." In the present book he tells of old China and the new republic, of the passing of Yuan-Shi-Kai, of the war in China, and of the last year of war and the aftermath. These together make up an interesting and informing picture of that Far Eastern diplomacy in which all of the great powers are taking an active hand. We have here a significant account of those modern proposals by two cabinet ministers, which proposals enabled an American minister unofficially to frustrate the intrigues of Russia and Japan. But perhaps most significant of all is the author's account of the new international consciousness in China and the aims, methods, and results of the new idealisms.

BOOKS RECEIVED

SHANTUNG: Treaties and Agreements. Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C., 1921. Pp. I-X, 1-120.

KOREA: Treaties and Agreements. Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C., 1921. Pp. I-VIII, 1-68.

MANCHURIA: Treaties and Agreements. Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C., 1921. Pp. I-XIV, 1-220.